



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Environment

Henry L. Henderson
Commissioner

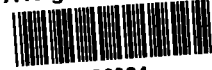
Fourteenth Floor
2 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-7606 (Voice)
(312) 744-3586 (TT/TDD)
(312) 744-6451 (FAX)

August 9, 1995

Mr. Donald Bruce
Emergency Response and Enforcement Branch, HSE-5J
77 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: 1820 West Lake Street

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



236924

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Request that your office give high priority to an emergency response action to begin immediate removal and clean-up of an abandoned metal plating operation, American Plating, at 1820 West Lake Street.

Charlie Gebien visited the facility with me and three of our emergency response personnel and a City building inspector on August 8, 1995. Our cursory walk-through of the facility revealed one vat filled with a liquid in the 1-2 pH range, numerous drums (some labeled acid), possible asbestos pipe insulation, and discoloration on the ground and on the walls throughout the building. There has been at least one fire in the building, and its condition is very poor. The building itself is open in numerous locations, and it is our assessment that it would not be worthwhile to try to board it up. A board-up would be costly and would probably be compromised soon after it was in place.

The gravest dangers in the building are the open vat and the filled 55-gallon drums, especially since the building is open. It is possible that the City will decide to demolish the building after the referral from the building inspector who visited the site with us. The gravest dangers in the building are the open vat and the filled 55-gallon drums, but asbestos, soil contamination, and other environmental concerns must be addressed before the building comes down.

We appreciate the assistance you have given us so far at this site and other sites in Chicago in the recent past, and we look forward to continuing the close cooperation with you into the future.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 744-4034 or Joe Schuessler at 744-9377.

Sincerely,

David R. Inman
Assistant Commissioner

